

BORDER EAGLE

Laughlin Air Force Base ♦ Texas

54th Year ♦ No. 3 ♦ January 20, 2006

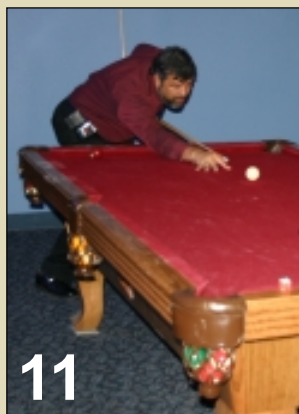
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Headin' out

Security Forces deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom



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Back in business

Club Amistad celebrates grand reopening



Mission
Capable
Rates

T-1

90%

T-6

96.9%

T-38

85%

AEF Stats

22

Deployed

4

Back in
30 days

13

Leaving in
30 days

Team XL's
last

DUI

Oct. 31, 2005

*It's a
crime!*



Bringing comm on line

Armando Palacios, a government contractor, inspects the grounding and electrical components in the new wing headquarters building Jan. 13. The system is a Motorola IC2 console with telephone and land mobile radio capability, one of many communications projects being worked to get the building ready to open within the next couple of months. The 47th CS recently earned the Air Education and Training Command 2005 Maintenance Effectiveness Award. See story on page 4.

Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

Farewell Laughlin, Air Force



Command Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt.
Ted Pilihos
47th Flying Training Wing
command chief

Over the years I have been asked many times...“what do you have to do to be successful in the Air Force?” The answer is not simple because there are many, many aspects to consider. But now with my 29-year-plus career drawing to an end I would like to share just a few thoughts with all of you.

Ever since I was a child I was taught to take responsibility for my actions. I was taught that there were choices with every action I took; that it was up to me to decide on an action and based on my decision results would occur. If the decision was good the result would usually be good, on the other hand if the decision was bad, most likely so would be the results. In either case the decision was mine and therefore good or bad I was responsible for the results. I have carried this philosophy with me throughout my life and my Air Force career. I made my decisions based on my personal values; what I've learned and experienced. I weighed them against rules and regulations and what my family, leaders, contemporaries, and subordinates expected of me, and good or bad I took full responsibility for them.

What did this philosophy do for me? It earned me respect by demonstrating to my fellow Airmen and leaders that I was an individual of integrity.

And though I never realized it when I was young, it also prepared me to be an effective leader. You see as I transitioned from Airman, to noncommissioned officer, and later senior NCO I discovered one of the

most important things a leader must earn is respect. Because to lead you must motivate others into action, and while respect for rank or position will motivate most to meet standards it takes respect for the individual to motivate people to exceed standards and obtain goals that seem unattainable.

As I progressed in rank I began to realize that the Air Force expected its people to grow and mature much in the same manner a parent expects its child to grow and mature. With maturity came an expectation to perform at greater levels and take on more challenging responsibilities. The most demanding challenge came when I was first appointed as an NCO, and I learned that besides being responsible for my own actions, I would now be responsible for the actions of others under my charge.

I soon learned the best way to handle this new responsibility was to ensure my people were properly trained and equipped and that they clearly understood their individual responsibilities and my expectations of them. I also found it was important to empower them; give them the leeway to make decisions and mistakes within their realm of responsibility. I soon learned that empowerment was key to my success as well as theirs because it was empowerment that enabled them to grow and mature.

This is because 99.9 percent of the people we have in the Air Force have a desire to do well. I've met very few that actually come to work with the intent of doing a mediocre job and just barely getting by. Empowerment provides an opportunity to succeed or fail. With each success individual confidence grew, and with each failure came an opportunity to mentor and guide individuals toward future success. In order to do this you must communicate expectations, praise successes, and correct mistakes.

But most importantly you have to be willing to forgive honest mistakes, especially when they were made in conjunction with sincere attempts to succeed. By allowing people to survive their mistakes and still have an opportunity to succeed later you enable them to grow and mature into people who aren't afraid to make decisions and who are willing to accept responsibility for their decisions.

How do I know this? Because this is how my father Chief Master Sgt. Andy Pilihos raised me. It's also how my first “good” supervisor and all my “good” supervisors and leaders throughout my career have raised me. They taught me that a leader's success is measured in mission results and that the mission is the result of every individual's efforts. Therefore, if the leader is to be successful, the mission must succeed, and for the mission to succeed the individuals must first be successful.

They also taught me the easiest way to ensure individual success was to carry out the most important responsibility I will ever have in the Air Force, and that is to simply “grow my replacement.” This truth was reinforced the day I learned I had a line number for chief; when one of my chief master sergeant mentors shook my hand and said, “Remember Ted, chiefs make chiefs, it's your responsibility to help make our future chiefs.” Today I offer each of you these same words with a small twist, “Airmen make Airmen, it's your responsibility to make our future Airmen.” No matter what your grade, you are responsible for growing your replacement. By growing your replacement you ensure there is someone to carry on the mission after you are gone. I spent my career growing my replacement because the future of the Air Force was in my hands...now it's in your capable hands. God bless you all and our Air Force and the great country we serve.

BORDER EAGLE

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Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald by 4 p.m. each Friday at 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
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Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

DUIs can wreck lives, careers

Beale Airman reflects on personal, professional consequences after driving under the influence

By Airman 1st Class
Mark Bannert
13th Intelligence Squadron

My blues are crisp. My low-quarters are highly shined. My hair is freshly cut and my face is closely shaven. I appear the consummate Airman.

My palms are sweating. I have a meeting with my commander.

I enter the room trying to be cool and confident, but uncontrollably, my face flushes. There are so many other scenarios where reporting to the commander would be a proud moment.

I stand at attention saluting my commander.

As my reporting statement leaves my lips my mouth feels as if I have just swallowed a cup of sand.

The words are slow and forced. My head is spinning as I look into his eyes. The usually calming blue hue of his kind eyes have turned into something different.

I see red flames and feel the utter anger and disgust he feels toward me wearing the same uniform as him.

He feels that I have disrespected my country, my Air Force, and my squadron. His voice is calm and confident.

"What were you thinking?" Before I can speak, my mind is flooded with the memories of that night.

The night is cold and rain is falling all around me like little liquid spears. The fight I was in with my girlfriend has my blood flowing and my mind racing. The alcohol in my system does nothing to help calm me or collect my thoughts.

There are 85 miles between where I am and where I need to be. I could call Beale Airmen Against Drunk Driving or one of my co-workers and they will

surely come to get me but I don't. I don't want to disrupt them. I'll just see how I do.

I get in the car; the ignition is difficult to find in my drunken stupor but I am finally able to find it and turn the key. My music is blaring, and I feel quite drowsy.

I'll just roll down the window. The cool air and rain hitting my face wakes me momentarily. I find my way out of the neighborhood and hit the freeway.

The next hour and a half I go in and out of consciousness a few times, scaring myself.

I'm singing at the top of my lungs to stay awake; finally the alcohol and humming of the road take over.

Slam! My world is rocked by a loud crash, a plume of chalky air and my nose hurts. The airbags have deployed and I am confused about what exactly has happened.

I instantly try to restart the car. I am only 15 minutes from my friend's house and there is no way he will deny me sleeping there.

The car won't start and I am in a ditch. I turn off my headlights and decide that I will just walk to my destination. The car is totaled. Both the front and back of the car are smashed into the cabin and miraculously I am uninjured.

No one will see the car and I'll get a tow truck to pick it up in the morning. I stagger down the road upset and confused until a black car stops and asks me if I need help. He says, "Hop in, I'll give you a ride." I get in and as he turns the car around he asks me, "Are you OK?"

Then he asks if I was involved in the car wreck. He tells me he has both good and bad news for me. I ask; "What's the good news?" not sure what exactly he means and he tells me that he picked me up. I

inquire further. "What's the bad news?" He says he is an off-duty cop and he's taking me back to the scene.

My heart races and the only thing I can think of is how to get myself out of this. They do not understand what I have been through tonight.

Next thing I know we are back at the scene. I only made it five miles before I was picked up. The police are amazed to see me unscathed after seeing the car and tell me I'm lucky.

As they are putting me in cuffs and reading me my rights, I am not thinking that I am lucky, I'm thinking I'm screwed; my career is over.

And in a way all that was true.

Any trust I had developed with my co-workers over the past six months is gone. There are going to be repercussions from this for the rest of my career.

Every base I go to will know, "This is the guy that got the DUI." Enlisted Performance Reports will be low, encouraging more low EPRs.

When new people enter the squadron they are notified quite quickly that I am a troublemaker and someone not to be associated with. No matter that I have changed.

I want to be that same troop I was when I joined, full of promise and honor, morals and virtue guiding my everyday decisions.

I must now try twice as hard to get half the distance as my peers. In the end "A man's character is his fate." — Heraclitus.

So keep your path filled with character that expresses our core values — "Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all you do" and you will lead a successful life of no regret.

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Comm garners AETC maintenance effectiveness honors

By Master Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

The 47th Communications Squadron is the best in Air Education and Training Command when it comes to the communications-electronics maintenance mission.

As a result of its efforts this past fiscal year, Laughlin's communications squadron earned the 2005 AETC Maintenance Effectiveness Award in the Communications-Electronics Maintenance Medium Unit category.

"In many ways, this award validates what we already knew...that our Scorpions are the best in the communications maintenance business," said Chief Master Sgt. Flip Daufen, squadron maintenance superintendent.

"Our troops are Team XL's special operators; quiet professionals working behind the scene and keeping the lights green while delivering cyberspace power, not only to Laughlin warfighters but to several other governmental agencies outside of DOD," he said.

The maintenance effectiveness

award highlights units that excel at maintenance readiness, efficiency and resource management and encourages excellence in all maintenance areas.

One highlight of the squadron's achievements this past year included an unprecedented 99.3 percent mission system availability rate.

By maintaining an efficient communication flow between pilots, ground crews, air traffic and radar approach controllers, and base operations and flying training squadron personnel, the wing launched, controlled and recovered more than 58,000 training sorties and led AETC with 86,000 flying hours, which contributed to the on-time graduation of more than one-third of the Air Force's newest pilots.

In addition to accomplishments with radar and airfield systems, the team provided communications and computer support to more than 400 buildings and 50 remote sites.

Through self-help and innovative projects, communications maintenance troops improved equipment in areas such as the air traffic control and landing system and the base's weather

mission, and netted an immeasurable amount of savings in maintenance resources.

The squadron also attacked the primary causes of a dead personal wireless communication system program. The staff revamped all processes of the program to turn what was one of its worst problems in 2003 into a first-rate program in 2005.

The list of mission accomplishments by the squadron are long and varied, yet one other success played an integral role in earning the AETC award.

By putting quality-of-life initiatives in the forefront, the communications squadron spearheaded numerous base-wide activities that benefited all members of Team XL and the local community.

Squadron members organized the first wing "Fit-2-Fight Challenge," rallying 1,200 personnel to participate in a variety of sporting events; dedicated 70 hours to the Base Airmen Against Drunk Driving program, helping decrease driving-under-the-influence incidents by 40 percent; organized a

fundraiser for the Air Force Enlisted Foundation, collecting \$2,500 toward a new widows home; and provided mentorship to local youth by advocating drug awareness and abstinence.

"I am extremely proud of our comm warriors, especially our junior enlisted," said Chief Daufen. "They train hard, they work hard and they play hard. They are the best, and this award puts an exclamation point after the title... 'Best in Command!'"

Maj. Gary Barlet, 47th CS commander, expressed the confidence he has in his team's efforts as members of his squadron contribute daily to the wing's mission.

"My troops winning this award just vindicates what I already knew," said Major Barlet. "Laughlin has the best comm troops in the Air Force. Now, everyone knows it."

The 47th CS will now compete at the Air Force level. If the Scorpions are successful there, they will vie for the highly-coveted Secretary of Defense Phoenix Trophy, the crown jewel of unit awards within the DOD computer maintenance arena.

Contracting proves business end of sword is razor sharp

By Senior Airman Austin M. May
Staff writer

The 47th Contracting Squadron was recently named first runner-up in the Best Small Contracting Squadron category within Air Education and Training Command.

"We are honored by the recognition," said Maj. Ronnie Doud, 47th CONS commander.

"It means our squadron excelled at effectively acquiring services and supplies needed to accomplish the 47th Flying Training Wing's mission as well as deploying skilled contracting professionals to troubled areas of the world."

Major Doud said the con-

tracting squadron already has its eyes on the prize for next year.

"Squadron members are proud of their award but like any true champion they are already exploring areas where we can improve our performance to reach the next level," he said.

Before he arrived at Laughlin, the 47th CONS already had in place the key ingredient to their success, according to Maj. Doud.

"Long before I arrived on station, Jesus Martinez, 47th CONS deputy commander, and Master Sgt. Richard Crivens, 47th CONS superintendent, along with the rest of our hard-working and selfless staff, instilled the teamwork mentality through-

out the unit," Maj. Doud said.

The major said squadron members also extend teaming efforts to their customers.

"Contracting relies on our customers for technical expertise to ensure we're buying exactly what the wing needs to train expeditionary Airmen," he said.

"Our largest customer by far is the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron," Maj. Doud continued. "They advise us on all construction projects, facility and grounds maintenance, along with a very unique contract designed to save energy without additional cost to the government, just to mention a few. As a team we make great things happen. They, along with our other customers, share in our success."

Team XL needs Silver Talons Laughlin Air Force Base Honor Guard



The Silver Talons Honor Guard is looking for motivated, sharp Airmen and noncommissioned officers to join its team of elites. Team members exemplify military tradition and professionalism, and pride themselves as pillars of the community. Their charges are duty well performed, honor in all things and country above self. If you are up to the challenge call Staff Sgt. Antonio Washington at 298-5159.

West gate scene of baby delivery

By Senior Airman
Austin M. May
Staff writer

A sign at Laughlin’s west gate reads “All deliveries must be made at the main gate.”
On Jan. 11, an exception was made for Ewan Soyer Sullivan, who was born at 8:58 a.m. near the guard shack at the gate.

“I was at the west gate when I saw this van on the outbound lane pull up, stop and heard the driver tell me that her passenger was going into labor and she needed help,” said Senior Airman Juan Garcia, a K9 handler with the 47th Security Forces Squadron. “I told her to turn around and park on the side, and immediately I ran to my truck and put the dog away.”

The driver was Naomi Vestel, a reservist nurse with the 47th Medical Group, and her passenger was Jessica Sullivan, both of whose husbands are instructor pilots with the 85th Flying Training Squadron.

“As I was running to the truck, I told the security guards to get the first aid kit and call the law enforcement desk and tell them what was going on,” Airman Garcia continued. “I ran back to the van and opened the passenger door to check on Mrs. Sullivan when all of a sudden I saw her baby’s head coming and told her friend that the baby was coming.”

Mrs. Sullivan had called Mrs. Vestel that morning and told her that she felt as if her labor was starting. The Vestels and Sullivans had been stationed together in Germany prior to coming to Laughlin, and Naomi Vestel

had helped care for the Sullivan’s second child.
“We got in the car at about 8:50 a.m., and right when we got to the back gate she said she felt like the baby was coming out,” Mrs. Vestel said. “I rolled down the window and told the folks at the gate to call an ambulance, because Jessica was going to have the baby right now.

“We looked in the first aid kit, but there were no gloves in it. Airman Garcia had gloves, and he gave them to me,” Mrs. Vestel said. Mrs. Vestel caught baby Ewan, and handed him to his mother while Airman Garcia directed the ambulance in, she said.

Mrs. Vestel said her Air Force training came in handy during the delivery. “In the Air Force, you do stuff like this in the field all the time,” she said. “You know how to just totally improvise in this type of situation. All we had was (the guard shack’s) first aid kit. We had to use a shirt to dry the baby, and we used a scalpel to cut the cord, because there were no scissors. The fire department did have clamps though, which was amazing. I thought I might have to use string.”

Ewan’s delivery, although unorthodox, went well, with no complications. At the hospital, he did have to have extra blood work to ensure he would not get an infection because his birthing environment was not sterile, but is doing perfectly fine, according to Mrs. Vestel.

Airman Garcia said his job with security forces had conditioned him to be ready in any situation.

“The Air Force and the security forces career field has trained me to



Photo by Senior Airman Austin M. May

Naomi Vestel, a reservist nurse with the 47th Medical Group, sits with Ewan Sullivan in her mini van, the same one in which she delivered him for a friend Jan.11 at Laughlin’s west gate.

handle multiple stressful tasks at one time, such as shoot/don’t shoot scenarios, or as a K9 handler when to release my dog or not, depending on the circumstance, but never to deliver a baby,” Airman Garcia said. “I don’t

think you can ever be ready for that, but I’ll do it again if I have to, no doubt about it. In my career field you learn to always be clear minded, stay calm and never lose your cool in any given situation, and that day was like no other.”

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Capt. John Tucker
C-17 (ANG)
Hickam AFB, Hawaii



GRADUATION

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Capt. Dale Turnbull
C-5
Dover AFB, Del.



1st Lt. Michael Culhane
T-6
Laughlin AFB



1st Lt. James Dolson
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Ballard
T-38C
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Aaron Bohn
A-10 (USAFR)
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Brian Brock
KC-135 (ANG)
Coraopolis, Pa.



2nd Lt. Michael Campbell
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Grayson
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Sean Huss
C-17
Hickam AFB, Hawaii



2nd Lt. Manuela Layendecker-Peters
KC-135
Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Andrew Leh
KC-10
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Justin Mancinelli
E-3
Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Luke Marker
T-1
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Jason Oates
F-16C
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Martin Ochtabec
C-5 (USAFR)
Westover ARB, Mass.



2nd Lt. Octavio Prieto
KC-135
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Roe
F-16C
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Daniel Stowell
C-130
Pope AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Michael Turner
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Walker
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Retirement ceremony

Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos
47th Flying Training Wing
command chief master sergeant

10 a.m., Monday, Club XL

Col. Dan Woodward officiating
Chief of Forces Division, J8, Washington, D.C.
(Former 47th FTW commander)



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

Have a good trip

Tech. Sgt. Roberto Rangel, 47th Security Forces Squadron, gives Tech. Sgt. Frank Munderback a hug Saturday prior to the departure of Sergeant Munderbak and a team of 12 other security forces members for deployment. Family members, friends, commanders and co-workers gathered at the security forces squadron Saturday to send off the crew with best wishes as they departed to join forces supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Call Public Affairs at
298-5988 for details on
the Hometown News
Release program

Newslines

Intersection closure

The intersection of Arizona Avenue and Kansas Avenue will close Tuesday through approximately Feb. 10 for reconstruction.

The closure will not affect most base traffic but traffic going to buildings on Arizona Avenue will have to reroute.

Access to buildings 42, 43, 44, 46, 47 or 203000 will be from Iowa Ave. Bollards that close off the Arizona Avenue-Iowa Avenue intersection will be lowered temporarily.

86th change of command

Lt. Col. David Stamos will replace Lt. Col. Frank Van Horn as commander of the 86th Flying Training Command during a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. Monday on the flight line in front of base operations.

87th change of command

Lt. Col. Om Prakash will replace Lt. Col. Russell Mack as commander of the 87th Flying Training Command during a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. Thursday on the flight line, in front of building 320.

Delays due to exercise

The wing will conduct a base-wide exercise Jan. 27 and 28, and motorists can expect some delays driving around base. Contractors and deliveries may also experience some delay but will not be restricted from their locations.

The Child Development Center will be open all day Jan. 28. If parents want to use the center and normally do not, they must pre-register their children prior to dropping them off. Call 298-5419 for details about child care at the CDC.

Clinic closure

The Laughlin clinic will be closed Jan. 27 to support the wing exercise. For urgent medical needs go to Val Verde Regional Medical Center emergency room. For emergencies call 911.

Laughlin commemorates, celebrates MLK holiday

By Master Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

The Laughlin community joined the base's Black Heritage Committee and Del Rio last week to honor and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through a variety of events.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the MLK holiday as a remembrance luncheon was held Jan. 13 at Club XL, and Laughlin members joined Del Rio Saturday for the second annual Del Rio MLK Commemoration March.

The march, organized by Joni Jordan of Laughlin's civilian personnel office, and Diana Salgado of Del Rio, brought together more than 150 people.

Following the march, participants gathered inside the Del Rio Civic Center to hear the keynote address given by retired Air Force Col. Church Watkins Jr.

All of the events went very well, according to Tech. Sgt. Renee Brown-Holley, president of Laughlin's Black Heritage Committee.

"It was great to see so many people come out and celebrate," she said.

The celebrations, consisting of Laughlin and Del Rio participants working together, coordinated well with this year's theme for African American History Month, "Celebrating Communities," said Sergeant Brown-Holley. "It really brought the point home about cultural diversity and awareness."



Photo by Jose Mendoza



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

(Above) Staff Sgt. Kenneth Nelson, of the 47th Mission Support Group, judges a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. door-decorating contest Jan. 13 at Cardwell Elementary School in Del Rio. Sergeant Nelson and three other members of the Black Heritage Committee selected the winning doors for the pre-kindergarten students.

(Below) Robert Wade, of the base civilian personnel office, sings a rendition of "God Bless the U.S.A." Saturday at the Del Rio Civic Center where MLK march participants continued their tribute to Dr. King.



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill



Photo by Jose Mendoza

(Top photo) Airman 1st Class Fred Gallop, of the 47th Medical Operations Squadron, recites a poem Jan. 13 at Club XL during Laughlin's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Luncheon. The poem, "His Name was King," was authored by his mother. (Above) Col. Thomas Arko, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and Tech. Sgt. Renee Brown-Holley, Laughlin's Black Heritage Committee president, present a gift to Martin Seca, senior pastor of Living Stone Worship Center in Del Rio. Pastor Seca was the keynote speaker for the remembrance luncheon.

Air Force looks to recapitalize

Secretary Wynne seeks to introduce advanced technology

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

With the combination of aging and heavily-used equipment, the Air Force needs recapitalization across the board, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said.

In past discussions about Air Force recapitalization, aircraft usually took center stage. Although aircraft still need to be recapitalized, there has been a shift.

"The Air Force recapitalization program is not focused simply on aircraft," Secretary Wynne said. "Where we know we have advanced technolo-

gies, we want to introduce them; where we know we have emerging missions, we want to satisfy them."

One emerging mission will be an increase in intelligence gathering using unmanned aerial vehicles and space assets.

"We need more UAVs and we need (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) platforms in space because this is really where the decision making starts," he said.

All Air Force recapitalization efforts must be data driven. The secretary wants Airmen and acquisition entities enabled to take aggressive action and be accountable for those actions.

"We need to have data to make our investment decisions," he said. "I need to provide them the kind of informa-

tion they can make credible decisions on."

The F-22A Raptor, C-17 Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules have brought more reliability to the fight and probably a future decline in maintenance activities, Secretary Wynne said.

"I'm finding out that the C-17 requires far fewer maintenance hours, and the F-22A is probably 40 percent more reliable," he said. "So (these better reliability rates) are leading us to a re-evaluation of how we do operations throughout the process."

"All this is about continuing to introduce innovation," Secretary Wynne said. "It will change the Air Force character without a doubt. But that's what we do. We as Airmen like to push technology and change our mission over time."



Photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

Monster recruiter

Afterburner, the Air Force's new monster truck, flies toward the finish line at the San Antonio Monster Jam. It was only the second race in which the truck, one of the newest Air Force recruiting tools, competed. Afterburner, driven by Paul Cohen, made the finals Saturday, but was edged out by Grave Digger.



Master Sgt. Shane MacPhearson
47th Operations Support Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Austin M. May

Time at Laughlin: Five-and-a-half years

Hometown: Virginia Beach, Va.

Family: Wife, Susan, and son, Nathan

Time in service: 16 1/2 years

Greatest accomplishment: Raising my happy little boy who loves and trusts his mommy and daddy.

Hobbies: Golfing, cooking and playing music

Bad habit: Not allowing myself to relax and "enjoy the moment"

Favorite movies: "Napoleon Dynamite," "Amadeus," and "Happy Gilmore"

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?: Robert Smith from the band The Cure. Their music has captivated and inspired me for years.

"Pure platinum! Sergeant MacPhearson is the best assistant chief controller I've had the pleasure to work with. He's an outstanding senior noncommissioned officer and professional who has done a tremendous job supporting the wing and Air Force mission. I would characterize him as honest, dependable, loyal and highly respected."

-- Chief Master Sgt. Zelda Montoya
Chief controller, radar approach control



Record-breaking flight
A formation of 17 C-17 Globemaster IIIs fly over the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia during low-level tactical training. The C-17s, assigned to the 437th and 315th Airlift Wings, were part of the largest formation in history from a single base and demonstrated the strategic airdrop capability of the Air Force.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Bailey





Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

High-steppin’ good time

Laughlin club members perform the “Cotton-Eyed Joe” line dance Saturday night during Club Amistad’s grand re-opening celebration. The club underwent renovations recently, and all members were invited to re-open it and celebrate in style. The evening featured a live disc jockey, food, games and fun. A spades tournament was also held with Airmen 1st Class David Cairo, of the base chapel, and Troy Watts, of the 47th Communications Squadron, teaming up to take the title and \$60 prize. Club managers are planning more events for club members to attend and enjoy. Keep checking the Border Eagle’s Community page for upcoming special events sponsored by the club and 47th Services Division.

Young Laughlin sportsmen learn heritage of hunting

By Master Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

Five Laughlin youth will embark on an experience this weekend that's sure to instill in them a long-standing outdoor tradition – hunting.

The young sportsmen, along with their fathers, leave for a two-day trip today on their first-ever hunting experience to Jarrett-Juno ranch near Comstock. The ranch is among many in the state where landowners work together with the Texas Youth Hunting Program and allow participants to hunt on their property.

The Texas Wildlife Association in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offer the youth hunting program for children aged 9 to 17 years old.

Volunteers, like Tech. Sgt. Frank Munderback of the 47th Security Forces Squadron, also play a critical role in supporting and grooming the young hunters in addition to planning and running the hunts for them.

"Hunting is a proud heritage," said Sergeant Munderback, "and to preserve it as all sportsmen know and enjoy, I want to give back and provide hunting experiences for future generations."

He added that hunting is not about harvesting animals for fun but plays an integral role in the management of wildlife populations and habitat enhancement. Youth are taught basic skills, values, techniques and responsibilities of hunting which instills in them high ethical standards, he said.

"If our hunting heritage is going to continue, they must be responsible, ethical and have integrity," said Sergeant Munderback.

Before taking off on their hunt, the

youngsters attended the required Texas Hunter Education Course, on Jan. 7 and 8. Sergeant Munderback organized the course for them and invited Fred Berg, area chief in charge of all hunter education instructors in this region, to teach it.

Among items the young students learned included hunter ethics, stages of hunter development, knowing their fire arm equipment and proper ammunition, and protecting the environment.

The students were also required to take and pass a written exam to ensure they completely understood the information.

Mr. Berg said he trusts they will go out do all the right things they were taught.

"These youth will be excited," Mr. Berg said. "They will have their finger on the trigger, and they are going to be responsible."

He said when youth complete the course he encourages and asks them, "Can you prove to me tht you can go out and do the right thing?"

Brandon Williams, 9-year-old son of Tech. Sgt. Joseph Williams of the 47th SFS, is the youngest member of the group on this trip.

"Brandon is extremely excited about going on the hunt," Sergeant Williams said. "He has been hunting with me as a spectator, but this is his opportunity to be the hunter."

Sergeant Williams said his son is ready for the hunt after taking the hunter education course.

"To this day he has been reciting things he learned from the class," he said. "I think hunter education should be mandatory for all people who want to hunt. It would raise the awareness level of all hunters on the safety and



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

Fred Berg, Texas hunter education course instructor for the local region, teaches a class on properly handling a firearm Jan. 7 at the 47th Security Forces Squadron. Mr. Berg taught the course for five Laughlin youth and their fathers who participate in the Texas Youth Hunting Program.

ethics of hunting."

Sergeant Williams said he feels fortunate to go on this trip with his son.

"I am hoping that the experience will be fun and rewarding for him and the other children," he said.

David Garcia, 14-year-old son of Jerry Garcia of the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, is also a member of the group for this trip. He said his son has expressed how important hunting and the balance of nature plays a big role in preserving natural resources.

"I have been a hunter most of my life and have taken the course," said Mr. Garcia. "I wasn't required to take the class, but it opened my eyes to conservation and taking care of the environment."

Other participants on this trip include Lt. Col. Paul Bordenave, 47th Operations Support Squadron, and his son Damian; Dri Gonzales, 47th Maintenance Directorate, and his son Michael; and reservist Clarence James and his son Cory.

To registier and learn more details about the Texas Youth Hunting Program, call 800-460-5494 or visit www.texas-wildlife.org.

Little League registration day

The Del Rio American Little League is currently accepting registration for baseball and softball.

The league is looking for parents to coach and boys aged 7 to 12 to pitch and play baseball, and girls 7 to 16 years old to pitch and play softball.

Laughlin families who want to sign up should stop by Popword Field from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday.

Popword Field is located near the intersection of E. Garza and Vitella in Del Rio.

Intramural basketball					
Standings as of Tuesday					
East	W	L	East	W	L
MSS	3	0	84/85th	2	0
CES	2	1	86th	1	1
OSS	1	1	LSI	0	1
SFS	1	1	LSCAM	0	1
MDG	1	2	CSS1	0	0
CSS2	0	3			

This week's schedule at the base gym	
Monday	
6 p.m., SFS vs. CCS2; 7 p.m., OSS vs. CES	
Tuesday	
6 p.m. OSS vs. MSS; 7 p.m., MDG vs. SFS	
Wednesday	
6 p.m. 84/85th vs. LSI; 7 p.m., CES vs. MDG	
Thursday	
6 p.m. CCS2 vs. 84/85th; 7 p.m., MDG vs CES; 8 p.m., LSI vs. LCSAM	